

SOME POTENT "IFS."

Things That Would Have Brought Overwhelming Disaster to the Confederates

If They Had Gone Our Way.
Editor National Tribune: The Confederates have ever been persistent in their efforts to break through the lines and have not occurred on their side or ours they would have defeated us on every battle. I wish to cite a few instances to show the thousands of many lives on our side as on theirs.

On the 9th day of May, 1864, the Confederates broke through the lines before Rocky Face Ridge, Ga., holding the enemy in his works by skirmishing, while Gen. McPherson was marching to the front. The Confederates at Creek Gap, his movement being perfectly covered by mountains. If this force had moved rapidly into position, the Confederates would have remained there as ordered by Gen. Sherman. Gen. Johnston would have been thrown back to the rear, and Gen. Sherman's Thomas crowding him from the front as planned, with the Army of the Cumberland, 60,000 strong, the Confederates would have been completely defeated at the beginning of the Atlanta cam-

On the morning of Dec. 31, 1862, at Stone River, the commanders of the Federal and Confederate armies met upon trial of a common plan of battle, and the Federal army, in its own carriage in the event of being too late in initial offense. The advantage of this dominant contingency was gained by the Federal army, which was thrown upon the defensive early in the day. Neither army commander had any idea of the plan of the other. But Bragg had approached very nearly the completion of his. He had turned the flank of our army, bending back the Federal line, and had nearly broken it, but had exhausted his army without gaining a decisive victory. Gen. Rosecrans, however, had been completely content from the one he had planned. Instead of turning the right of the Confederate army and taking its center in the rear, he had turned its left flank in the movement had at once placed him on the defensive. Now, if Gen. Bragg had known of the plan of Gen. Rosecrans, he would have caught Bragg's

troops out of line, and marching toward the cedars and the Salem pike. The day of December, 1862, would have given us a signal victory instead of bare field, barely won, several days later.

The battle of Champion Hill, preceding the siege of Vicksburg, was fought under Gen. Grant's immediate supervision, he having arrived upon the scene just as the battle was closing. Hovey had formed their lines. Quickly taking in the situation, he sent a staff officer to Gen. McClelland, directing him to attack as possible and attack Pemberton's right. This order was disregarded by Gen. McClelland, who at the time had been ordered to attack the left flank of Pemberton's center and two divisions (Smith and Blair) confronting the Confederate right wing. Repeated orders

McClellan's command reached the field until the enemy had been defeated and was in disorder. The retreat of McClellan's command was not a disaster. The Confederates had been filled with Gen. Logan in advance until darkness compelled a halt, but not until they had taken 1,300 prisoners had been captured.

Had the orders from Gen. Grant to McClellan been obeyed Vicksburg's command would not have been. The Confederates have always claimed that they had destroyed the Union army had not been killed at Shiloh or they would have been totally destroyed. After the opening of that battle the three were in the hands of the Confederates. Gen. Lee, Gen. Lee, 5,000 strong were in camp at and near Crump's Landing. As soon as Gen. Grant arrived upon the scene he ordered the Union army to the Quartermaster on his staff, with verbal orders for Gen. Wallace to march in the direction of the river. The road was a direct road, and a bridge had been built across Snake Creek. Not hearing from the Union army, the Confederates sent a person was dispatched with orders to bring up the division, which he found marching on the Purdy road, and night

the battlefield. Now if Gen. Grant had sent a written order, or had Gen. Wallace richly understood the verbiage, the Confederate army would have been the result had the 5,000 fresh troops been sent to the front. The Confederate left flank about mid-afternoon of what fateful day? With either Johnston or his successor, Beauregard, in command, a complete rolling up of the exhausted Confederate line, the capture of the army, and the end of the crushing defeat of the rebel army before the arrival of Gen. Buell.

On the 16th day of December, 1864, the Confederate army under Forrest was driven from about half of its fortified position in front of Nashville, and on the 17th day of December, 1864, the Confederate army was driven from the Brentwood Hills, from flank to flank, was carried by the army of Gen. Thomas. The Confederate retreat was but a few miles from Nashville to the 20th and 21st Corps, aided by the Cavalry, the 23rd Division and Wilson's Cavalry.

of Gen. Thomas (made after having been aroused from a needed sleep), which sent the pontoon train a day's march on the Murfreesboro pike, there would not have been a thousand straggling Confederates to escape across the Tennessee River. Prisoners captured by my command on the 15th declared that we could not have captured them or their works had we not struck them "end ways."

Along this line might be mentioned the fatal order of Gen. Rosecrans to "close up on Reynolds" at Chickamauga, which left an open gap thru which Longstreet penetrated our lines; and many other occurrences of a like nature. Gen. Grant in his "Memoirs" comments on the Confederate "ifs" as follows: "We would have been disgraced by the beautiful beach of the shells and bullets fired by us had passed harmlessly over the enemy, and if all of theirs had taken effect."—Geo. S. Myers, 101st Cal., 1942 E. First St., Los Angeles, Cal.

Marshall Kane's Project.

Editor National Tribune: What was "the project of Marshall Kane," mentioned in your issue of June 2, 1884? Davis, June 26, 1884? The letter discusses the possibilities of Early's expe-

lition down the Shenandoah Valley, in-
stitution of Maryland, release of the pris-
oners at Washington, etc., in which he says,
"With relation to the project of Mars-
hal Kane, if the matter can be kept
secret, I have no objection. I think it
should Gen. Early cross the Potomac, he
might be sent to join him."—S. C. Far-
ar, Pittsburg, Pa.

On the letter giving the
specific plot of Marshal Kane to which
your comrade refers, Kane, who had
been Marshal of Baltimore, was an ar-
dent seceder and constantly filled with
the schemes of organizing an army of
rebels to make trouble for the Yankees. There
was a number of his communications in
the War Records, but this particular one
was one to raise a regiment of Mary-
landers in 1864 and for heavy artillery,
and sink the vessels on the Potomac.

interrupt the communication between Gen. Grant and the Capital. Marshall Kane was continually representing the citizens of Maryland as ground under the heel of Yankee tyranny and eager to do something to throw off their chains.—Editor National Tribune.

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ADDRESSES WANTED.

WANTED—Death certificate of Joseph Burgess, who died on Oct. 27, 1888, at Reynoldsville, Jefferson County, Pa. Address soldier, Co. K, 48th Pa. Vol. Inf. Address

WANTED—The address of any of the members of Co. H. 11th Inf., by Jas. F. Tweed, 319 Walnut St., Erie, Pa.

WANTED—Will any member of Co. K, 2d U. S. Cav., from 1869 to 1874, please write to their comrade, Henry C. Stratton, care M. E. H.

WANTED—Addresses of Comrades who knew John M. Hannah, Co. D, 1st Pa. Cav., in the hospital at Covington, Ky., the latter part of 1863 and 1864; the doctor's name in charge during this time. John M. Hannah, Avonmore, Pa.

WANTED—Information of Thomas L. Luddy, formerly of the 5th Ohio Cav.; enlisted at Cincinnati; born in County Cavan, Ireland; last heard from as living near Boonville, Mo.; his only sister's children would like to hear from him. Address Frank Miller, 3834 Pecos St., Denver, Colo.

WANTED—The addresses of the following comrades: Lieut. Charles Rome, W. Olinger, John Strong, Marsh Roberts, and Co. G, 58th Ill.

WANTED—The addresses of members of Co. B, 137th Ill., by F. C. Gibson, Hammon, Mo.

WANTED—The address of Jeremiah O'Donnell, Co. I, 89th N. Y., or any member of that company.

WANTED—Eli Amien, 2d N. J., address not given, wants the address of Capt. R. Call, late of Co. C, 2d N. J.

WANTED—H. Warren Phelps, secretary of the 95th Ohio Association, 88 Pugh

WANTED—Comrade Samuel S. McClure, Danlinton, Pa., is very desirous to obtain present address of Serg't B. F. Roberson, Co. A, 13th Reg. Corps, who served a Maine regiment before transfer to N.Y.

WANTED—The addresses of members of Co. E, 10th Mass. Address to Mrs. Mary E. Morse, Gladbrook, Iowa.

WANTED—The whereabouts of Daniel O'Connor, who served in Duryea's Cavalry in the civil war; is about 70 years of age; resided in New York City before and after the war, and is believed to be in the United States.

WANTED—To hear from any comrade of
71st O. V. I. O., J. R. Coppock, Co. B,
Ohio, Peebles, Adams Co., Ohio, Box 88.

WANTED—By Ferdinand Lebtig, 1072
Celestial St., Cincinnati, O., present
address or other information, of Co. B,

WANTED—Wm. Herndon, Co. B, 8th Ky., Lancaster, Ky., seeks present address of Lieut. John W. Witcher, 1st Ky. Cav.; or his family, if he is dead, and left widow or children. Rumor has suggested that Lieut. Witcher died in Indiana.

WANTED—Information regarding Capt. [Name] of the 1st Ky. Cav., who was in the 1st Ky. Cav., 1863.

500, of the 1st Ky Reg't, Capt. James
Co., who was appointed with the
title as Topographical Engineer by Col.
thritic, at Charleston, W. Va., on the route
Roan Court House, W. Va.; also of any
number of Co. A, 1st Ky Reg't, who knew
pt. Wood. Charles D. Barclay, Co. G, 20th
g't G. V. I., No. 518 Parmelee Ave., Youngs-
ville, Ohio.